

I. O. B. B. HOLDS BIG CELEBRATION IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

By Joseph M. Samfield.

"I tell you my friends, the rejection of the peace treaty which was done to death at Washington last Wednesday showed the basest ingratitude to our great leader whom we followed into a war which America fought for no other purpose than to bring peace to the whole world." Thus spoke A. Leo Oberdorfer of Birmingham, Ala., grand president of District Grand Lodge No. 7, Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, at the Popular Avenue Temple Sunday night in an impassioned address as part of the program of the Sixtieth anniversary of the Memphis B'nai B'rith lodge.

It was in the course of his remarks relating to the patriotism of the American Jew that Mr. Oberdorfer bitterly condemned the rejection of the peace treaty. Continuing he said, "these expressions are my individual feelings and are not intended as the expressions of any other particular individual or of the great order of which I am the representative. If you feel as I do you would rise en masse and send protest after protest to those responsible for this injustice to the American people. We followed a leader who had accomplished things that no predecessor ever accomplished and we longed for the time when there would no longer be among the nations large everywhere and the Jew is against all of these."

The war is over, the peace treaty is not signed, and we had two years within which to withdraw. My friends the graves of France marked with the star of David tell of the patriotism of the Jew. The world is a changed world since the war—there is radicalism, anarchy, I. W. W.ism and Bolshevism where, and the Jew is against all of these."

Mr. Oberdorfer then spoke of the mission of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, and told of the great altruistic and philanthropic work being conducted by that order. He said the B'nai B'rith is a great institution, but that it behooved the Jew to make it greater, and to help solve the problems of their co-religionists in the smaller communities. Mr. Oberdorfer in his address made a great impression upon his audience, among whom were many non-Jews.

Other speakers upon the program at the Temple were Chancellor Israel H. Peres, Victor H. Hexter of Dallas and Samuel H. Schloss. Judge Peres spoke upon "The B'nai B'rith and the Republic." He said that not until 1788 was a government formed conducive to religious freedom and equality of all men. He paid a great tribute to the American Republic and said that our government is a representative government with a constitution. He said that the B'nai B'rith stands for loyalty to our government and loyalty to the American flag.

"Since 1900," said Judge Peres, "we have begun to drift away from our constitution, until now we are in a chaotic state. The I. O. B. B. and our republic has everything to do with each other. Do not be led astray by the enemies of the republic, whose blarney voices undermine the very foundation of patriotism." Judge Peres paid a tribute to Milton B. Rose, president of the local B'nai B'rith, for his efforts in its behalf, as well as to the many members who are assisting him in increasing the scope of the order in Memphis.

Mr. Hexter told of the high ideals for which the B'nai B'rith stood, and admonished his hearers to live up to these ideals. He said no Jew is a Jew unless he is a thorough Jew, and proud of being such. He spoke of the excellent results being accomplished by the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith everywhere, and appealed to the present generation to follow in the paths of the great leaders of the order who have passed away.

Samuel Schloss is the only surviving charter member of Memphis Lodge No. 35, I. O. B. B. and he read a complete history of the lodge from the time of its inception up to the present day. It was an interesting historical review, and will be preserved in the archives of the Memphis lodge.

Sunday morning the initial ceremonies were given incident to the 60th anniversary of Memphis Lodge No. 35, when a large class of new members were initiated into membership in the local B'nai B'rith lodge. The initiation ceremony was conducted by the three grand lodge officers, who came here to participate in the festivities. These officers are A. Lee Oberdorfer, Birmingham, Ala., grand president; Victor H. Hexter, Dallas, first vice president, and A. B. Freyer, Shreveport, La., secretary and vice-president. They were assisted with the initiation by members of the Memphis lodge. Following the initiation a smoker was enjoyed, and addresses made by the grand lodge officers, Seymour L. Lee, Samuel Schloss, Rabbi Finescriber and several of the new members.

During the afternoon a delightful auto ride was participated in by the grand lodge officers and members of the various committees.

OUR WEEKLY LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

Special Correspondence from the International Jewish Press Bureau.

The great protest demonstration against the pogroms in the Ukraine turned out to be more of a success than was expected.

No less than 50,000 marched in the procession from New York's lower East Side to 57th street, where the protest meeting in Carnegie Hall took place. The greatest impression was made by the division of Jewish soldiers and sailors, which contained 18,000 uniformed men. This number was given to us by the military marshal of the demonstration, Lieutenant Treifler, who reviewed all the Jewish service men as they marched past in close formation, according to military orders.

Naturally there were some features of the demonstration which proved to be disappointing. The first disappointment was that the Jewish demonstration was not permitted to march thru Fifth Avenue. This wealthy thoroughfare to which New York accords such pride, and where there constantly promenade thousands of the class of Americans who have the power to exert their influence on the public of America, was closed to us.

Our second disappointment was that owing to the poor arrangements, Carnegie Hall was not filled, although in the case of the protest against Poland, the much larger Madison Square Garden was packed to the last inch. At the present meeting, thousands remained standing in the streets, because the police did not permit anyone near the hall without a ticket, and

many who had tickets, seeing the great crowds before the hall, went away without attempting to enter, because they thought that the place was already over-filled.

The speeches were not very strong, with the exception of the address of Secretary of the Navy, Daniels, and that of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, whose addresses are always so effective that

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